## SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

LANSING, MICHIGAN

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## MINIMUM WAGE BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

Detroit senators praise Governor's quick action and investment in working poor.

Lansing- Governor Jennifer Granholm signed into law today legislation that will raise the state minimum wage to \$6.95 by October of this year. The bill, Senate Bill 318, authored by Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor), will raise the minimum wage again to \$7.15 in July of 2007 and finally to \$7.40 in July of 2008.

"Raising the minimum wage will have the most positive effect on Detroit of any bill I have seen this year," said Sen. Burton Leland (D-Detroit). "Hundreds of thousands of Michigan residents will benefit from this fair and effective investment in our economy."

Legislative leaders joined Governor Granholm in a signing ceremony this morning in the Michigan state capitol. Governor Granholm and the Democratic Senators praised the legislature for ultimately conceding the need for action on the minimum wage.

"Increasing the minimum wage not only helps workers better cover their expenses, but it helps the economy as well," said Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit). "Every dollar that minimum wage earners make, they put back into the state's economy."

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, raising the minimum wage by just two dollars per hour would directly benefit at least 464,000 Michigan workers, or nearly 1 in 6 hourly workers statewide.

"Raising the minimum wage means raising the standard of living for hundreds of thousands of Michigan's working families," Sen. Martha Scott (D-Highland Park) said. "If we are serious about improving the lives of Michigan's low-income families and offering opportunities to participate in our state economy, this is a fine place to start."

"I am pleased to be part of something that will improve the standard of living for so many hardworking Michigan citizens," said Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman (D-Detroit). "Minimum wage workers have not had an increase in earnings in nine years. Governor Granholm's signing of this legislation today will have a positive impact in the lives of those who have been going to work every day, yet struggling to make ends meet. The minimum wage increase will put more money in their pockets and make it easier for them to take care of their families.